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in form, to be furnished with a cupola, to serve as a supplementary observatory. The promoters hope to be able to build these cabins and, with the exception of the cupola, to complete the observatory on the summit during the course of the present summer. But this necessarily depends upon the weather and upon the men obtainable for the work. Ordinary workmen, unaccustomed to the mountains, are of course useless, and there are many even of the Chamounix guides and porters who are incapable of remaining for any length of time at this great altitude. After the sad and fatal experiences of last year, the greatest care is to be exercised with regard to the health and safety of the men employed, in order to prevent, if possible, the loss of more lives in connection with this undertaking. Last summer, it will be remembered, an avalanche swept two of a caravan into a crevasse as they were returning from the summit, and an affection of the lungs contracted by Dr. Jacotet, who was sent to look after the workmen, caused his death in a few hours. The promoters, therefore, promise to insure at their own cost the lives of the men engaged upon the enterprise; the men are also to be paid 10f. a day, and in addition 3f. for every kilo carried from Chamounix to the summit. This pay is very liberal and very tempting, and it need be so when one considers the risks the men run. The storms and avalanches are terrible enough, but the chills and *mal de montagne* are even more dreaded. Men will, however, doubtless be found when M. Janssen arrives in Chamounix, a fortnight hence, to carry out the work.

—From *Edinburgh Scotsman* of 13th June, 1892.

STABILITY OF THE GREAT EQUATORIAL, 1888–1892.

Observations for the positions of the great telescope have been made by Messrs. Schaeberle, Keeler and Campbell, as below:

1888. July 27, azimuth = + 36″ ; level = 8″ too low,
1889. May 18, azimuth = ... ; level = 36″ too low,
Sept. 16, azimuth = + 83″ ; level = 58″ too low,
1890. Aug. 23, azimuth = (+ 54″); level = 114″ too low.

Telescope adjusted—

1891. June 30, azimuth = + ? ; level = 35″ too low.

Holding-down bolts tightened—

1892. Aug. 5, azimuth = + 51″ ; level = 25″ too high.

NOTE ON THE NEW NEBULA IN AURIGA.

The 36-inch telescope was recently turned to the region of the interesting nebula, discovered by photography (see *Publ.* A. S. P., No. 22), connecting the stars W. B. 5^h, Nos. 151 and 162. It is safe to say that if the observers had not known just where to look for the nebula nothing unusual would have been noticed in the visual observations. None of the detail so plainly shown on the photographs can be recognized with certainty. Prof. CAMPBELL found nothing unusual in the spectra of the two stars. J. M. S.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. TOWNLEY IN THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. S. D. TOWNLEY, B. S. (1890), M. S. (1892), of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed PHEBE HEARST Fellow in Astronomy in the Lick Observatory for one year from July 1, 1892. E. S. H.

A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ASTRONOMY AT MOUNT HAMILTON.*

"At this season, when we are hearing of so many summer schools of various sorts, it may be interesting to say a few words about the school of practical and theoretical astronomy which has grown up at Mount Hamilton as a part of the graduate system of the University of California.

"All the under-graduate instruction in astronomy in the university is given at Berkeley, where there is a capital students' observatory, well equipped with everything suitable for teaching the art of astronomical observation to college students. This students' observatory is under the charge of one of the instructors of the university who has himself received his training at the Lick Observatory and who arranges the courses at Berkeley so as to lead directly to higher work to be given at Mount Hamilton.

"Admission to the Graduate School is ordinarily granted to graduates of the University of California and also to graduates of other colleges of like standing, as well as to other persons of suitable age and attainments. Students at the Lick Observatory may either be candidates for some one of the higher degrees of the university (as Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, etc.), or they may be special students seeking special instruction in some particular department of astronomy, which they have better opportunities to study at Mount Hamilton than elsewhere.

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